

CLAIMS

1. A method of investigating transactions in a data processing environment comprising a trusted computing environment, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 i. selecting a user within the trusted computing environment;
 - ii. creating an investigation identity which is owned by the user;
 - iii. using the investigation identity to take part in transactions; and
 - iv. creating a record of those transactions.
 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the investigation identity is an anonymous identity.
 - 10 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which transactions made using the investigation identity are kept in an authenticated record by a trusted party.
 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the record of transactions is made available to an investigator.
 - 15 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the investigation identity is used by an investigator who takes part in the transactions.
 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the user can monitor the transactions made using the investigation identity.
 - 20 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the user can inhibit the operation of the investigation identity.
 8. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the trusted computing environment includes a trusted party who maintains the identities of parties to a transaction such that the identity of each party can be authenticated by other parties whilst each party is anonymous to the other parties.

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9. An apparatus for investigating transactions, said apparatus including a trusted computing device arranged such that an investigation identity is owned by a user, and a record of transactions made by the investigation identity is stored in an authenticated record by the trusted computing device.
- 5 10. A computer program product for causing a trusted computing device having a trusted computing environment to perform the following steps:
- i. select a user within the trusted computing environment;
 - ii. create an investigation identity which is owned by the user;
 - iii. use the investigation identity to take part in transactions; and

10 iv. create a record of those transactions.